BUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (g) The operational responsibility for implementation of the Public Distribution System is that of the State Governments and UT. Administrations Decisions regarding opening of fair price shops locations, working timings and days are matters under the administrative and U. T. Administrations. Such Jurisdiction of the State Governments details are not maintained by the Central Government. Central Government has not issued any guidelines regarding setting up of model fair price shops nor does it propose to set up such shops in any State or U. T.

Delayed Goods delivery an Unfair Trade Practice

5241. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be uleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court in one of its recent judgements has held that delay in delivery of goods amounted to unfair trade practice under the Consumer Protection Act;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in pursuance of this judgement of the Supreme Court to safeguard the interests of the consumers and to check the unfair conduct and practice of the trade traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 12-4-94 in Civil Appeal No. 373 of 1994 in the matter of Om Prakash Versus Assistant Engineer, Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited and others held that with effect from 27-9-1991, the international delay in the delivery of goods amounted to unfair trade practices.

(c) Since the Supreme Court has only upheld the provisions already existing in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to safeguard the interests of the consumers against unfair trade practices, no further action is required by the Government.

Education and Research Institute for Consumer Affairs

5242. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during November, 1993 an Education and Research Institute for Consumer Affairs was set up with the primary objective of imparting formal education in consumer affairs and conducting market research in consumer behaviour;

(b) if so, to what extent this Institute has helped both the consumers and the business community;

(c) to what extent this has also improved chances for appointment in the customer service cells of Government and service organisation;

(d) whether any certificate courses have also been introduced by ERICA; and

(e) if so, how many persons have so far been provided with the certificates and Post-Graduate courses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is a voluntary effort by a consumer Organisation and the Government is not involved in it.

(c) The Central Government has no feedback on this aspect. The Institute has reported that it is interacting with the industry and trade organisations.

(d) and (e) According to the information sent by the said Institute, it conducted two courses, namely, one certificate course and one refresher course on consumer protection and one batch of 55 candidates completed the courses. From July 1994, the Institute proposes to run 2 courses viz. one year post graduate diploma in consumer education and 4 months orientation course in consumer protection.

Rise in Wholesale Price Index

5243. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 635 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th February, 1994; and state :

(a) whether the wholesale prices of over 250 commodities including a large number of food articles have risen substantially and

(b) if so, what is the percentage of rise in the wholesale price index at the end of March, 1994 as against the correspondin period in 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Of the total commodities in the Wholesale Price Index, 170 commodities have recorded an inflation rate above 10 per cent as 26-3-1994.

(b) The percentage rise in Wholesale price index for all commodities as on 26th March, 1995 was 10.2% as against 7% in the corresponding period of last year.

Reduction Sale of Imported Palfolein Oil

5244. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALA RAM :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantities of imported Palmolein oil were disposed of at reduced prices recently;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the quality of this imported oil was getting deteriorated as the shelf-life of the oil expires in April 1994; and

(d) if so, whether the stock was tested for fitness for human consumption before disposing of at reduced prices and if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dos not arise.

(c) The shelf-life of RBD palmolein kept loose (i.e. in bulk tanks) is generally